

How many East German perfins are there?

Someone on the Internet a few weeks ago offered to sell an accumulation of East German perfins. Logic would suggest that there aren't many perfins known on the stamps of East Germany. The wide-spread use of perfins had pretty well ended by the time East Germany began issuing its own stamps.

I e-mailed the party offering the stamps and asked for a better description. I received a response saying that the perfins were not on East German stamps but on regular pre-war German stamps. The seller went on to ask if that made a difference.

Obviously it does—which goes to show that there is tremendous ignorance in a lot of quarters about perfins and their significance and value.

It also brings up a question.

I am admittedly not well informed about German perfins and certainly not about East German perfins. I had to ask how many perfin patterns are known on the stamps of East Germany.

Rudy Roy says he has the CZ pattern of Carl Zeiss on Scott 10N13 and 10N120.

Bob Schwerdt reports that he has a J.P. pattern on Scott 55, the Carl Zeiss pattern on Scott 012 and 218, and a PHIL. KW on Scott 721. He speculates that there may also be a POL perfin on East German stamps.

Surely there are others, but how many. The world perfin census two years ago indicated only two, but Schwerdt's list tops that. If you have a perfin on a stamp of East Germany, please share that information. If you can provide a good clean photocopy that would be most helpful. Just send the information along to the editor at the address listed inside the back cover.

The pair of stamps shown here recently showed up in an Internet auction. It's a pair of East Germany #55, one of which has been punched with three circular holes.

Does anybody know any-



Postally meaningful or just the result of somebody with a paper punch and too much time?

thing about such an item? Is there any significance to the punches?

Because the stamps are off-cover it is entirely possible that the punches are the product of somebody with too much time and a paper punch. If you have additional information, please share it with the editor.